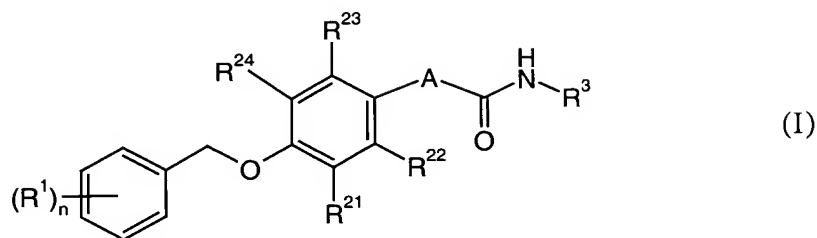


Claims

1. A compound of formula I



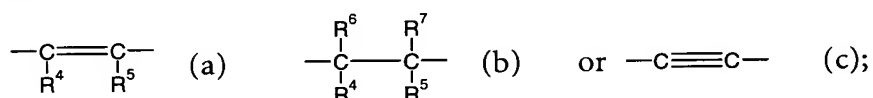
wherein

R^1 is (C_1-C_3) -alkyl, halogen, halogen- (C_1-C_6) -alkyl, cyano, (C_1-C_6) -alkoxy or halogen- (C_1-C_6) -alkoxy;

R^{21} , R^{22} , R^{23} and R^{24} are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and fluoro;

R^3 is hydrogen or (C_1-C_3) -alkyl;

A is selected from



R^4 is hydrogen or (C_1-C_3) -alkyl;

R^5 , R^6 and R^7 are each independently hydrogen or (C_1-C_6) -alkyl; and

n is 1, 2 or 3;

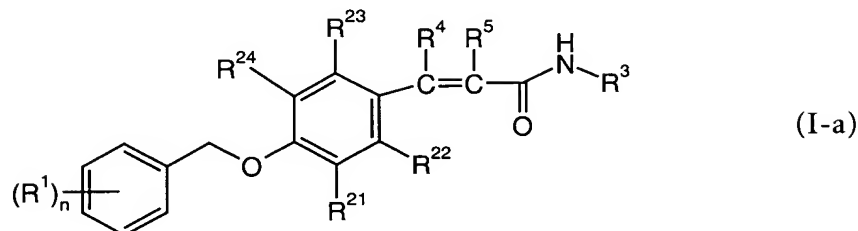
wherein when n is 2 or 3, each R^1 is the same or different;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound of according to claim 1, wherein n is 1.
3. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is halogen or halogen- (C_1-C_6) -alkyl.
4. A compound according to claim 3, wherein R^1 is fluoro or trifluoromethyl.
5. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^{21} , R^{22} , R^{23} and R^{24} are hydrogen.
6. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^3 is hydrogen.

7. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R³ is methyl.

8. A compound of formula I-a



wherein

R¹ is (C₁-C₃)-alkyl, halogen, halogen-(C₁-C₆)-alkyl, cyano, (C₁-C₆)-alkoxy or halogen-(C₁-C₆)-alkoxy;

R²¹, R²², R²³ and R²⁴ are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and fluoro;

R³ is hydrogen or (C₁-C₃)-alkyl;

R⁴ and R⁵ are each independently hydrogen or (C₁-C₃)-alkyl; and

n is 1, 2 or 3;

wherein when n is 2 or 3, each R¹ is the same or different; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. A compound according to claim 8, wherein R³ is methyl.

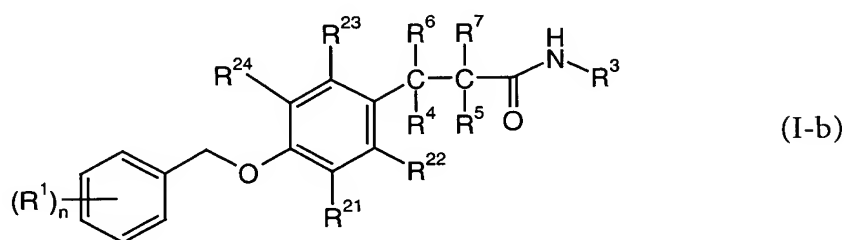
10. A compound according to claim 9, wherein R¹ is fluoro or trifluoromethyl.

11. A compound according to claim 9, wherein R¹ is (C₁-C₃)-alkyl or (C₁-C₆)-alkoxy.

12. A compound selected from the group consisting of
N-methyl-3-[4-(4-methyl-benzyloxy)-phenyl]-acrylamide and
3-[4-(3-methoxy-benzyloxy)-phenyl]-N-methyl-acrylamide.

13. A compound selected from the group consisting of
 3-[4-(3-fluoro-benzyloxy)-phenyl]-2,N-dimethyl-acrylamide,
 3-[4-(3-fluoro-benzyloxy)-phenyl]-N-methyl-acrylamide,
 N-methyl-3-[4-(4-trifluoromethyl-benzyloxy)-phenyl]-acrylamide,
 3-[4-(3,4-difluoro-benzyloxy)-phenyl]-N-methyl-acrylamide, and
 3-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyloxy)-phenyl]-N-methyl-acrylamide.

14. A compound of formula I-b



wherein

R^1 is (C₁-C₃)-alkyl, halogen, halogen-(C₁-C₆)-alkyl, cyano, (C₁-C₆)-alkoxy or halogen-(C₁-C₆)-alkoxy;

R^{21} , R^{22} , R^{23} and R^{24} are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and fluoro;

R^3 is hydrogen or (C₁-C₃)-alkyl;

R^4 is hydrogen or (C₁-C₃)-alkyl;

R^5 , R^6 and R^7 are each independently hydrogen or (C₁-C₆)-alkyl; and

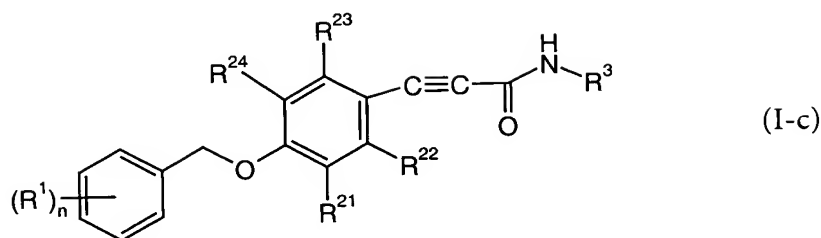
n is 1, 2 or 3;

wherein when n is 2 or 3, each R^1 is the same or different;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

15. A compound selected from the group consisting of
 3-[4-(3-fluoro-benzyloxy)-phenyl]-2,N-dimethyl-propionamide,
 3-[4-(3,4-difluoro-benzyloxy)-phenyl]-propionamide, and
 3-[4-(3-fluoro-benzyloxy)-phenyl]-N-methyl-butyramide.

16. A compound of formula I-c



wherein

R^1 is (C_1-C_3) -alkyl, halogen, halogen- (C_1-C_6) -alkyl, cyano, (C_1-C_6) -alkoxy or halogen- (C_1-C_6) -alkoxy;

R^{21} , R^{22} , R^{23} and R^{24} are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and fluoro;

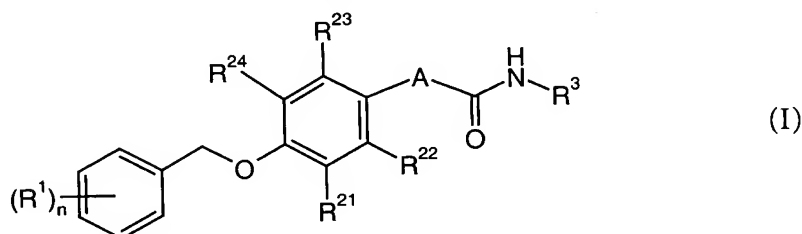
R^3 is hydrogen or (C_1-C_3) -alkyl; and

n is 1, 2 or 3;

wherein when n is 2 or 3, each R^1 is the same or different;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

17. The compound 3-[4-(3-fluoro-benzyloxy)-phenyl]-propynoic acid methylamide.

18. A composition comprising a compound of formula I



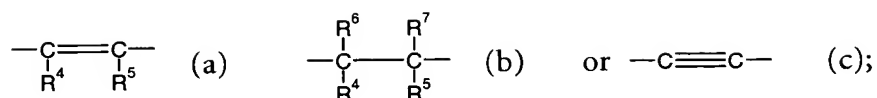
wherein

R^1 is (C_1-C_3) -alkyl, halogen, halogen- (C_1-C_6) -alkyl, cyano, (C_1-C_6) -alkoxy or halogen- (C_1-C_6) -alkoxy;

R^{21} , R^{22} , R^{23} and R^{24} are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and fluoro;

R^3 is hydrogen or (C_1-C_3) -alkyl;

A is selected from



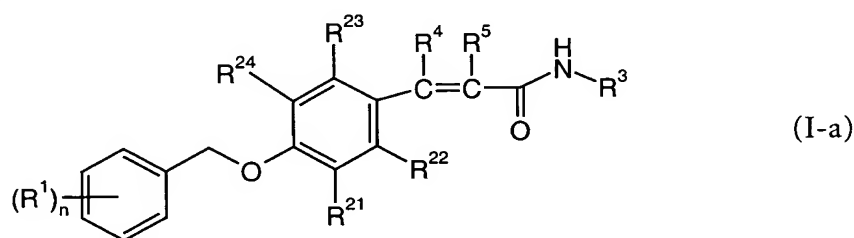
R^4 is hydrogen or $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_3)$ -alkyl;

R^5 , R^6 and R^7 are each independently hydrogen or $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6)$ -alkyl; and

n is 1, 2 or 3; wherein when n is 2 or 3, each R^1 is the same or different;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

19. A composition according to claim 18, wherein the compound of formula I is a compound of formula I-a



wherein

R^1 is $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_3)$ -alkyl, halogen, halogen- $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6)$ -alkyl, cyano, $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6)$ -alkoxy or halogen- $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6)$ -alkoxy;

R^{21} , R^{22} , R^{23} and R^{24} are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and fluoro;

R^3 is hydrogen or $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_3)$ -alkyl;

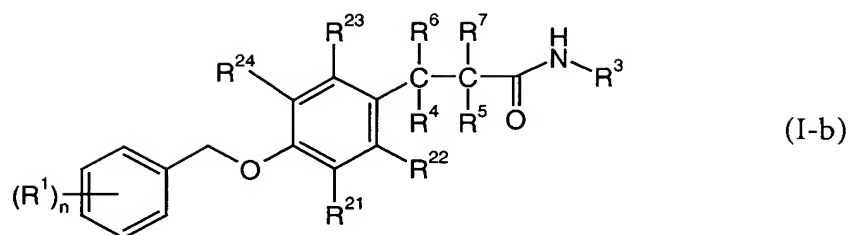
R^4 and R^5 are each independently hydrogen or $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_3)$ -alkyl; and

n is 1, 2 or 3;

wherein when n is 2 or 3, each R^1 is the same or different;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

20. A composition according to claim 18, wherein the compound of formula I is a compound of formula I-b



wherein

R^1 is (C₁-C₃)-alkyl, halogen, halogen-(C₁-C₆)-alkyl, cyano, (C₁-C₆)-alkoxy or halogen-(C₁-C₆)-alkoxy;

R^{21} , R^{22} , R^{23} and R^{24} are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and fluoro;

R^3 is hydrogen or (C₁-C₃)-alkyl;

R^4 is hydrogen or (C₁-C₃)-alkyl;

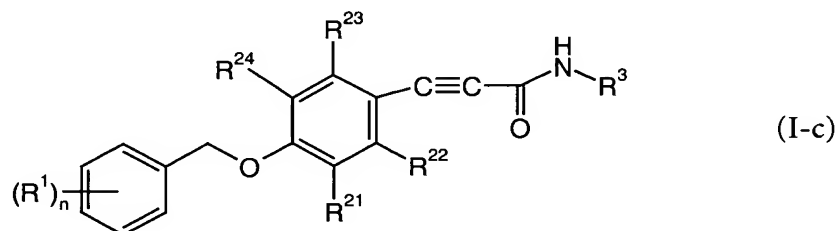
R^5 , R^6 and R^7 are each independently hydrogen or (C₁-C₆)-alkyl; and

n is 1, 2 or 3;

wherein when n is 2 or 3, each R^1 is the same or different;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

21. A composition according to claim 18, wherein the compound of formula I is a compound of formula I-c



wherein

R^1 is (C₁-C₃)-alkyl, halogen, halogen-(C₁-C₆)-alkyl, cyano, (C₁-C₆)-alkoxy or halogen-(C₁-C₆)-alkoxy;

R^{21} , R^{22} , R^{23} and R^{24} are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and fluoro;

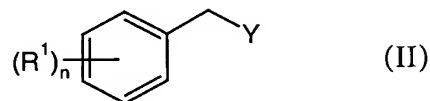
R^3 is hydrogen or (C₁-C₃)-alkyl; and

n is 1, 2 or 3;

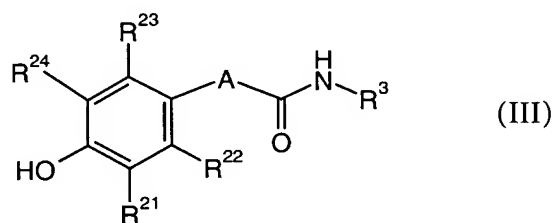
wherein when n is 2 or 3, each R¹ is the same or different;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

22. A process for the manufacture of a compound of formula I according to claim 1, which process comprises

a) reacting a compound of formula II



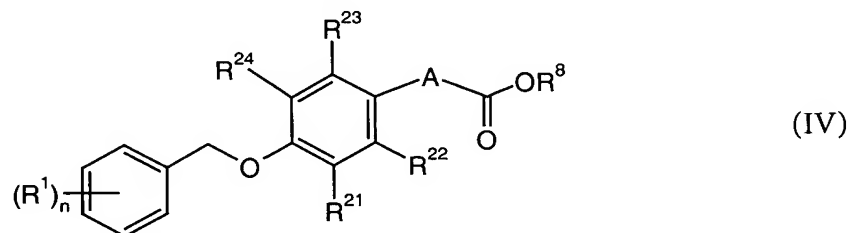
wherein R¹ and n are as defined in claim 1 and Y is a leaving group, with a compound of formula III



wherein R³, R²¹, R²², R²³, R²⁴ and A are as defined in claim 1.

23. A process for the manufacture of a compound of formula I according to claim 1, which process comprises

reacting a compound of formula IV



wherein R¹, R²¹, R²², R²³, R²⁴ and n are as defined in claim 1 and R⁸ is hydrogen or (C₁-C₆)-alkyl,

with an amine of formula V



wherein R³ is as defined in claim 1.

24. A method of treating or preventing Alzheimer's disease, comprising administering to an individual a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

25. A method of treating or preventing senile dementia, comprising administering to an individual a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1.